

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 19th June 2017 at The British Legion, Kingswinford

Chairman Mr. Andre Burns welcomed the County Commissioner Mark Bache, Peter Thomason County Chairman, Russell Woodhall, Walsall North District Commissioner, and Keith Griffiths retired D.C for Dudley District plus 30 persons from Various Groups.

Opening Prayer :- Was read by Mr. Andre Burns, Also acknowledging the loss of Maurice Shelley, Brian Gelthorpe, Ron Darby and Anne Smith from the SASU

Apologies:- Messrs. G.Whitehouse, S.Ashmore, E.McLauchlin, J.Sidaway, C.Foster, Miss S. Slimm, Mrs. S.Abrahams, Mrs. K.Shepherd

Minutes from the previous A.G.M were accepted and proposed by Mr.M.Abrahams, seconded by Mrs. S.Annakin

Chairman's Report:- As a committee we need to look to the future, and plan for the coming year.

It had been a difficult period with Keith Griffiths retiring as DC. The ADC's also stood down so we were in a time of limbo. County Commissioner had asked him to oversee things until a new DC could be found so he carried on until February when a D.C Team of Ted Batham and Nick Sandy took over.

We had one ADC that stayed on for the Scout Section, they need to have support from the Groups in the District.

Paul Todd had also carried on as Treasurer even though he had actually finished at the previous AGM (2016) but no one had taken over until this AGM we do thank him for continuing with the role while a replacement was found.

Sponsored Walk 2017 was down in numbers there was 207 walkers this time compared with 308 in 2016 but the raffle was slightly improved over 2015

Dudley West Explorer's had vastly improved facilities at Headquarters with installing a Kitchen, replacing floor in main room and re-painting the inside of the building.

Treasurer's Report:- As per the accounts submitted to the AGM Proposed by D.Rides seconded by B.Scott

District Commissioner's Reports:- Report covers from February to March but mostly covers what they would like to achieve in the future, by listening to persons take on board any ideas and criticism's to allow the District to move forward, we have in place two ADC's for each section of scouting but Alun David due to unfortunate circumstances he has had to resign as ADC(Beavers) and we just have one GSL vacancy for 3rd Kingswinford so the District is looking good.

The Young Leader Unit was a bit of a worry with issues with both attendance and accessibility but a new Young Leader has been appointed (Mr. Harry Sargent) hopefully he will get support from group Leaders with a 1st Response course solely for the young persons.

SASU is still continuing with the steady guidance of Colin Foster unfortunately with the loss of four members.

Adult support and training have been our main factor and we need to take this forward and improve on the base knowledge of Scouting. Validation is now taking place in the District alternately with Stourbridge

A big thank you to Iris Heeley and Rose Tope (Badge Secretaries) making sure badges are always available.

Alan Chadwick has been appointed the Field Manager so any bookings need to be made via him.

Keith managed to get some awards sorted before he ended his tenure and it is great to see adults and youngsters beginning recognized this way.

Approval of Nomination of Chairperson:- Both D.C's and asked Mr. A.Burns to remain in the position of Chairman of the Executive Committee which he had agreed to do.

Election of Officers: Beryl Scott as District Secretary, Natasha Shuard as now become District Treasurer
Iris Heeley, Rose Tope Badge Secretaries, Tom Bunce Public Relations Officer
Auditors for the District vacant

Nominations to the District Executive Committee:- Nominated by the D.C.'s Paul Todd, Alan Chadwick, Bob Heeley and Jon Sidaway Proposed by John Porter seconded by Dawn Rides

Election of Members to the District Executive Committee:- Rhiannon Griffiths, Sam Beach, Tom Bunce, Mike Abrahams, Rob Sandy Proposed by Pauline Porter, Seconded by Fran Sedgley

Election of District Scouter to the County Scout Council:- Mr. Dave Greenaway vote carried by everyone.

Presentation of Service Awards:- County Commissioner congratulated Keith Griffiths on his outstanding service's As D.C for the Dudley North District (9 years) and then as D.C for Dudley District (10 years) a total of 19 years in the role

Keith was presented with a bottle of Whiskey from the District.

The County Chairman reminded everyone that the Count AGM takes place on the 26th September 2017

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

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DCs Report 2016/2017

4 and a bit months into the role and I think we have a good handle on the situation of the district at the moment. 6th February was the Date that Mark (CC) gave us to start; so we had a good months or so in January to form a plan and that is now starting to come to fruition.

We very much want to be a transparent and open as possible about all issues and successes in the district; We are very keen to listen to people and take any ideas and criticism on board to allow us to move forward and bring everyone together. We are keen not to dwell on past experiences and hope to deal with issues as quickly as possible and are planning to make everything run as smoothly as possible and hope to account for all eventualities. By having an effective District team we can compliment the good work being done by the Groups and units.

We hope the improved communication has put everyone in the picture and hopefully that makes us more approachable; we want to be told and we want to be in the know. We hope to attend the AGM's of all groups so we can get our faces out and see you in person.

A big thank you to you all for welcoming us into the role, all the adult volunteers in the district are making a difference and it's your hard work and dedication that's making scouting in Dudley a success.

Our view of the district is a positive one, and the key for us is bringing in stability to strengthen what we already have. Regardless of what people think and say; we are in a good position, and as a district we are far greater than the sum of our parts and we truly believe that.

So far in our plans we have managed to fill most district roles; We are currently searching for another ADC beavers to Help Tom Lowe following Aluns unfortunate change in circumstances; but He is doing well. We have 2 ADC cubs in Fran and Louise; both with lots of experience and friendly and known throughout the district and lastly we have 2 ADC scouts in Guy and Rhiannon who between them can continue the good work and schedule of events that exist for the scout section.

GSLs are also in a good position with us only looking to find 1 more to fill the vacancy at 3rd Kingswinford.

The DESC Role was vacant and is still currently; however, I have met with the explorer leaders and we have a plan to fill it; at the moment; DY5, Gornal X, Netherton, Coseley, Beacon and DWES. The spirit of co-operation is there and this year we are hoping to get a

The Young Leader unit was a bit stagnant as there were issues with both attendance and accessibility for youngsters. We have appointed a new young leader leader and hope to have module A delivered in July; following this we will then look to deliver all modules for the next 18 months. I hope you will come forward to support him once he is announced and help him build a successful team to deliver the training to young leaders. We will also be looking to ensure a first response course is put on solely for young people too.

The Network leader role also became vacant when we were appointed so I have been going around the district and have found a few people to start delivering this. We have contact details for all 18-25 and hope to have an Alton towers event put on in the next few months which will be a good fresh start. They are currently in the process of putting a welcome pack together and plan to work closely with the explorer units to encourage retention.

The SAS is still going strong with the steady guidance of Colin and we still plan to attend one of the meetings.

Unfortunately there have been some sad losses over the past few months of Maurice Shelley and Brian Gelsthorpe.

I'm very proud that we have a unit of experienced scouters in Dudley and I would like to see more of us join their unit.

Adult support and Training have been a critical linchpin in our plans for the district; if we can improve the base knowledge of all the adults it will make lives easier; we need to work smarter not harder and by improving insights and sharing ideas. Liz and her team have a big job ahead of them; there are currently about 100 Adults in the District who need to complete getting started; we know that people are keen to do it; It's a mammoth task and County are providing the training sessions. Local validation of Wood badge training is another big advantage for our district and

we have been looking to get this for several years. Safeguarding, first response and Safety courses are being run and we are getting good attendance at these. We have had lots of Nights Away Permits coming through so this is also brilliant as it means as many young people as possible have the opportunity for overnight experiences. This means all provisional roles are now in the lower numbers and we have a full picture of who these people are and what support they need. We do however need more TA's to enable us to deal with this quicker – they have our full support and are doing a brilliant job.

We need to make sure people are up to date and part of this has been achieved by the training being put on and the comms put out. When people are changing jobs, we need to explain the full process to them. We don't think it's acceptable that people are in the movement and having no training – If you change role this doesn't mean attend and complete a full training course; but you may need to just do the validation which Liz has been quite accommodating of and complete it in a morning. At the moment because of the back-log it's a taking a little while so please bear with her and her team.

Beryl and Chris of Appointments Committee have done a superb job over the past few months. We have been keen to get all adults where required in front of the DAAC. We have now got the number of Preprovisional roles down to about 35 adults. It's not the number that counts but how long since they were given their role. We hope to ensure every adult completes a DAAC where required in under 3 months.

A big thank you to Rose and Iris the badge secretaries for all the work that they do.

District Exec is in a good strong position and with the appointment of Chad as the field manager its coming on leaps and bounds. We are also keen to thank Paul for doing another year as treasurer to enable us to continue scouting in Dudley effectively.

Awards were one of the things that Keith Managed to get sorted at the end of his tenure and its brilliant that so many people; adults and youngsters are getting these. We need people's efforts recognised and if you think someone is worthy and done something worth recognising please nominate them.